

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 AGR-20 SAJ-01 DRC-01 TAR-02 EA-11 ACDA-19

NIC-01 /225 W

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R 041246Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2285

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ETRD, EEC, IT, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN ASSESSMENT--ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS
AND FUTURE OF EC

REF: BONN 7057

1. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING WITH FONOFF POLITICAL
DIRECTOR VAN WELL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, AMBASSADOR RE-
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QUESTED HIS ASSESSMENT OF ITALIAN MOVE TO RESTRICT

IMPORTS. VAN WELL RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS THIRD RECENT SEVERE BLOW TO EC (FIRST WAS FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM SNAKE, AND SECOND WAS UK MEMBERSHIP RENEGOTIATION DEMAND) AND, IN CONTRAST WITH FRENCH AND BRITISH WHO SEEM TO HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING FOR ITALIAN MOVE, FRG SEES IT AS VERY SERIOUS MATTER WHICH EVEN ECONOMICALLY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO ITALY. BONN IS DISCOURAGED BY LACK OF CONSULTATION, AND IS NOT AT ALL SURE IF ITALIAN ACTION IS STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF EC TREATY AND AGREEMENTS. THE SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETING OF EC FONMINS ON MAY 7.

2. VAN WELL SAID FRG CONVINCED THAT EC AT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE A MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT STAGNATION, A GRADUAL DISMANTLING PROCESS, AND A REVERSAL TO PURSUIT BY EC MEMBERS OF NARROW NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE CHANCELLOR HAS PLANS REGARDING A FORWARD MOVE ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNION AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES, BUT IS NATURALLY UNWILLING TO PROCEED WITHOUT ANY INDICATIONS OF THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. FRG, HOWEVER, BELIEVES MAJOR DECISION--ONE WAY OR OTHER--NECESSARY, AND IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT DEGREE TO WHICH EC DISARRAY DESTABILIZES SITUATION AND ENCOURAGES THE SOVIETS AND THEIR PARTNERS TO PRESSURE EUROPE IN MANY FORA. HOWEVER, NOT MUCH CAN BE DONE UNTIL NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT FORMED AND UK RENEGOTIATION BID IS CLARIFIED. REGARDING LATTER MATTER, VAN WELL SAID HE THOUGHT UK, AFTER TALKS WITH NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, WILL CONCLUDE THAT EXCHANGING THEM FOR EC NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.

3. CLOSING THE DISCUSSION, VAN WELL SAID THAT CHANCELLOR HAS NOT CLOSED BOOK ON POSSIBLE EC SUMMIT MEETING FOR END OF JUNE. DECISION WOULD DEPEND SOMEWHAT ON FRENCH ELECTIONS, BUT SUMMIT SEEN AS USEFUL ALSO IN CONTEXT OF OTHER THAN STRICTLY EC INTERNAL MATTERS. FRG, SAID VAN WELL, SIMPLY DID NOT WANT TO SIT AS RABBIT BEFORE SNAKE AND PASSIVELY AWAIT DESTRUCTION. HILLENBRAND
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